

Hamblen County Landowners Install Rotational Grazing Systems



The Morristown Field Office and the Hamblen Soil Conservation District have been cooperating with local landowners to improve water quality while cutting the cost on rotational grazing systems. The key to rotational grazing is fencing and water. While traditional barbed wire usually costs around \$2.00 per foot, electrical high tensile usually costs less than half that amount.

There are a couple of specialized tools needed to build high tensile fence. The District has purchased them and loans them to local farmers. Through programs like EQIP and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, landowners can often receive cost share funds to help build the fences and install water troughs.



By moving cattle around more often, farmers receive several benefits including better forage quality, reduced erosion, better animal health, and reduced weed problems in pastures. By moving animals, you break the life cycle of many parasites and often have less mud. Cleaner, healthier cows with clean drinking water gain more weight and have fewer veterinarian bills, thus, providing better economic return to the farmer.

Healthy pastures require less fertilizer and pesticides. Additionally, well-managed pasture and grazing lands ensure cleaner water in our streams and less pesticides in our environment.